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the common name of Itkana (Upper, Middle and Lower); 5) Apukintsy, who lived at the mouth of the Apuka River and farther north, along the coast of the Bering Sea; 6) Kereks—a small coastal group, living northeast of the Apukintsy along the coast of the Bering Sea, from Natal'ya Bay in the southwest to Cape Navarin in the northeast; 7) Alyutortsy—the second largest group, inhabiting the large area of the Kamchatka Isthmus, from the village of Tymlaty in the south to the village of Olyutorka (Bering Sea coast) and Rekinniki and Podkagernoye (the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk); 8) Karagintsy—a group close in language to the Alyutortsy, living from the village of Tymlaty in the north to Ukn in the south (on the east coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula); 9) Palantsy—distributed in 5 villages along the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, from the village of Lesnaya in the north to that of Vayampolka in the south.

The census of 1926-1927 set the number of Koryaks at 7434 persons, of whom some 55% were nomads and some 45% settled.

At present almost all the Koryaks live within the bounds of the Koryak National Okrug of the Kamchatskaya Oblast. Only an insignificant number of Koryaks live outside the okrug—in the Chukchi National Okrug (the Kereks), and in the Bol'sheretskiy and Petropavlovskiy Rayons of the Kamchatskaya Oblast. The Koryak (National) Okrug is divided into 4 rayons: Penzhinskiy, with its center in the village of Kamenskoye (Vaykynan); Olyutorskiy, with its center at the village of Tilichiki (Tylliran); Tigil'skiy, its center at the village of Tigil' (Vuyvyn); and Karaginskiy, its center at the village of Ossora. The center of the okrug is the village of Palana in the Tigil'skiy Rayon.

The Koryak National Okrug of the Kamchatskaya Oblast lies between 56°-65°N and 158°-174°E. The unfavorable average temperatures and the wide expanses of tundra and forest-tundra, despite the relatively southerly position of the okrug, lend a harsh quality to its environment. Nevertheless, the natural conditions of the territory, which extends almost from the Arctic Circle in the north to the latitude of Moscow in the south, are not homogeneous. Their diversity is intensified by the complex mountain relief of the area. The extreme northwestern corner of the okrug—the Upper Omolon Basin—is the highest spot, and most continental in climate. This area belongs to the forest zone, although coniferous forests occupy relatively small areas, while the predominant terrain consists of lichen-grown and other tundras, with scrub thickets in the mountains and river valleys. There are also grassy swamps and meadowlands.

The middle part of the Penzhina River Basin and adjacent areas on the Kamchatka Isthmus are characterized by a predominance of hills and low plains. The continental character of the climate lessens as one approaches the Sea of Okhotsk. Despite its more southerly position, this entire territory belongs to the forest-tundra zone. It has no coniferous forests, but abounds in scrub thickets, mountainside tundras and rocky areas in the mountains. There are even more mountain tundras in the east of the okrug—among the Koryak uplands and in the northeastern part of the Kamchatka Isthmus.

The rest of the territory of the okrug embraces the swampy unforested coastal lowlands of the northwestern part of the Kamchatka Peninsula and the western slope of the middle part of the Middle Kamchatka Range. Stone-birch groves, thickets of cedar and alder, and dry moss and other tundras extend over the mountainsides and mountaintops; in the river valleys in the mountains and foothills, vegetation consists of tall deciduous forests (poplar, alder, willow, Korean cedar, and, farther south, birch) and meadows. In this part of the okrug, which lies in the temperate zone, the climate is moist and

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relatively mild. However, it is swept by cold sea winds; in winter, there are severe snowstorms and a great deal of snow. 13

The animal world is represented by forest fauna (fox, squirrel, ermine, brown bear, chipmunk, black grouse, wood-grouse, magpies, nutcrackers, crows, etc.), tundra fauna (polar fox in the north, polar bear, encountered in the east, reindeer, polar partridge) and mountain fauna (mountain sheep), as well as some living fossils, such as yevrazhta hamster and Siberian marmot. One should also mention the variety of sea birds—eider, gulls, etc., and vast numbers of migratory birds which come in spring, including geese, ducks, snipe, swans, etc. The rivers, lakes and sea waters abound in fish. Most important for fishing are salmon species (Siberian humpback, silver chinook, etc.), herring, uyek (Mallotus villosus socialis), cod, etc. The Sea of Okhotsk and Bering Sea abound in sea animals (whale, killer whale, white whale, and several species of seal). 136

The Koryak language belongs, together with Chukchi and Itel'men, to the same group of northeastern paleo-Asiatic languages. It is close to Chukchi in vocabulary and morphology. The languages of the Chukchi and Koryaks are so similar that they understand each other. 197

The Koryak subgroups enumerated above speak 9 dialects. The main distinctions among the dialects are phonetic. They differ to a considerably smaller degree morphologically, and even less, in vocabulary. By their principal phonetic and morphological characteristics, the dialects fall into two groups—southern and northern. The dialects of the Koryak language probably stem from the languages of the Koryak tribes into which the Koryaks were divided in the past.

The problem of Koryak origin has not been studied sufficiently. The few archaeological investigations carried out in the northwestern part of Kamchatka and along the Okhotsk coast have uncovered remains of old dugouts, stone and bone implements, and pottery. These findings may evidently be attributed to the ancestors of the modern Koryaks. The Evens of the Okhotsk Sea coast attribute the dugouts to Koryaks and point to the clay utensils as a characteristic feature of the life of the old inhabitants. 172

In the 17th-19th centuries, the villages of the coastal Koryaks extended considerably farther than they do today. Koryak villages on the Okhotsk Sea coast reached to Tauy Gulf. On the coast of the Bering Sea, their villages were encountered in the 17th-18th centuries, almost up to the mouth of the Anadyr'. The expansion of the Evens on the Okhotsk Sea coast, which was especially intensive in the 18th century, narrowed the territory of the sedentary Koryaks. 175 101

While the coastal Koryaks may be seen as the direct heirs of the most ancient neolithic culture of northern Kamchatka and the Okhotsk Sea coast, the problem of the origin of the reindeer-breeding Koryaks—the Chavchuvens—is unclear. Some investigators consider them as the descendants of coastal Koryaks, who developed reindeer-breeding under the influence of their neighbors, the Evens. The question of the dates and manner of the spread of reindeer-breeding among the Koryaks requires further study. 174 101

The oral folklore of the peoples of the Far Northeast attests to the close relations between Koryaks and their neighbors—the Chukchi, Evens, Yukagirs and Itel'mens. These relations were expressed, on the one hand, in intertribal barter, and on the other, in armed conflicts. Numerous Koryak and Chukchi legends relate that the northern neighbors of the Koryaks—the Chukchi—attacked them, drove off their reindeer, and carried off men and women as captives. Koryak folklore also tells of hostile clashes between coastal and reindeer-breeding Koryaks, which occurred before the coming of the Russians. 173 648